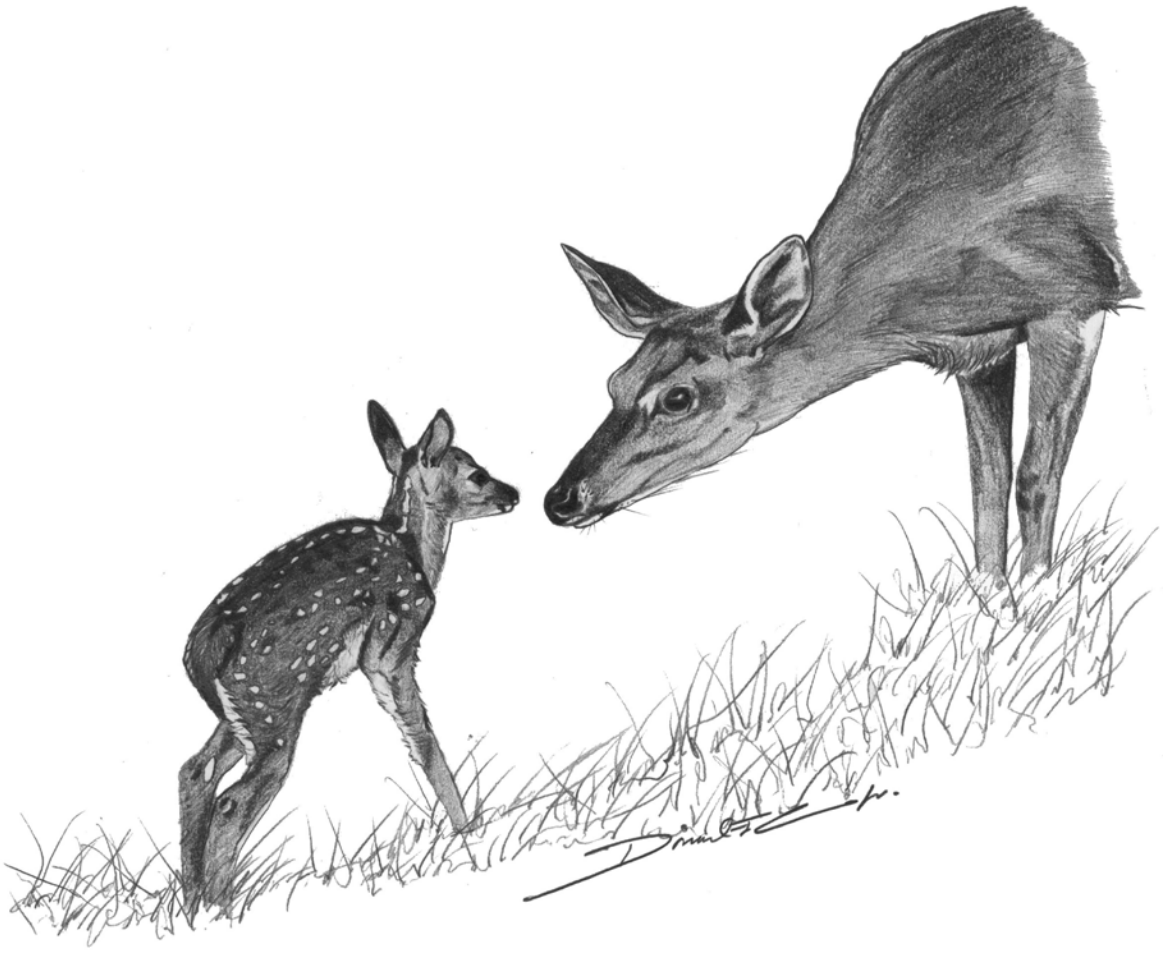
DMAP Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2 **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries** **September 2004**

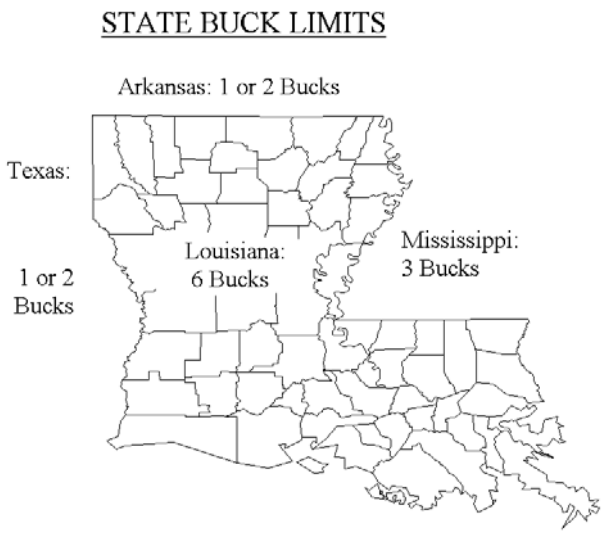


Drawing By Donald "Duck" Locascio, Jr.
Region 4 Wildlife Forester

Buck Limits and Tagging

By David Moreland, Wildlife Division Administrator

The 2004/05 hunting seasons have been set and the hunting pamphlets are being distributed. The season limit for deer remains at six with no specific limits on bucks or does. Many of you are aware that the Department recommendation to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in March was six deer of which only two could be antlered bucks. The proposal was based upon the desire of many hunters in this state to move in the direction of statewide quality deer management. Some southeastern states have established regulations using antler point restrictions to limit the size of antlered bucks harvested. All of the adjoining states and most of the southeastern states have buck limits of 1 or 2. We believe that a buck limit is a better approach for Louisiana than antler restrictions. A buck limit would allow hunters to choose what antlered bucks they desire to harvest while allowing some bucks to move up into the older age classes.



The two-buck proposal had fairly strong support from hunters around the state as evidenced from the public meetings in March. However, as the season setting process developed, hunters who opposed the buck limit, strongly voiced their opinion to the Commission and their legislators. As a result the Commission dropped the two-buck limit from the season proposal. One of the reasons for this was the fact that there was really no way to enforce the limit without a tagging system.

Since then many hunters have expressed their disappointment in the removal of the two-buck limit and many have asked if the issue is dead. Act 841 of the 2004 Louisiana Legislature would allow the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a deer and turkey tagging/record and reporting system. The Commission may only adopt the tagging/record system for deer when a reduced buck harvest is initiated. The door is now open for the Department to develop a tagging system that would enhance enforcement of a buck limit.

This is the last year for the experimental antler program in the Tri-Parish area. Once the "experiment" is over, a detailed report will be developed concerning the results obtained from the experiment. Cursory examination of the data suggest the "experiment" has had virtually no effect to date.

Quality buck harvested on Jackson-Bienville WMA

During the 2005/06 season setting process, the Department will again be talking with deer hunters about buck limits and tagging. The goal is to

develop a program that has the approval of both deer hunters and legislators. A series of public meetings will be part of the process so I encourage you to stay informed and attend these meetings. Tagging and buck limits represent a change in the way things have been done in Louisiana and will need strong support for it to occur.

With the approach of the 2004-05 hunting season, keep in mind that there are those who are less fortunate and who would benefit from the game that we harvest. The Hunters for the Hungry is one organization that provides such game to the food banks that distribute it to the needy. Let me encourage you to find out more about these programs and participate in them (for more details see page 11 and 12).

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DMAP Rule Changes for 2004–05

By: Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

DMAP rules and regulations have not been altered since 1999 when major revisions streamlined administration and enhanced enforcement of this rapidly growing program. In June 2004, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposed significant DMAP rule changes based on recommendations by Department technical staff. Normal rule making procedures require a 120-day comment period before final adoption by the Commission can occur. Proposed rule changes are to facilitate administration of this program, improve quality of deer harvest records, and improve management flexibility of DMAP.

- **DMAP Season Bag Limit** – Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in DMAP do not count in the season limit of a hunter. This was done to allow of DMAP cooperators increased capability to meet their recommended female harvest, the key to customized deer herd management. **The daily bag limit will still be one antlerless deer and one antlered buck on DMAP lands.**
- **Harvest Records** – The collection of physical deer data (age, weight, lactation and antler measurements) now will be mandatory for all DMAP cooperators. DMAP harvest records (averaging 28,000+ deer per hunting season) are a critical part of the information used to help develop management recommendations. Mandatory record keeping is an effort to improve the quality of these vital records.
- **Application Procedure** – Enrollment deadline for new DMAP Cooperators will be August 1st (moved from September 1st) to allow more time for DMAP biologists to conduct habitat surveys prior to the hunting season. The deadline for annual renewal of active DMAP units will remain September 1st.
- **DMAP Fee Payment** - Cooperators are invoiced and DMAP fees must be paid to the Department Fiscal Section by September 15th (moved up from October 1st). This was done to allow a two-week administrative buffer between payments received and tags being issued by October 1st, the start of bow season for most of the state.

These rule changes do not become effective until adopted at the November 4th Commission meeting. Although cooperators will be notified by letter of the new regulations, **be alert for possible changes from those presented in this newsletter.**

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Landowner Antlerless Deer Program (LADT) Expanded for 2004

By: David Moreland, Wildlife Division Administrator

LADT was initiated in 2000 to provide landowners and clubs with additional deer management tools enabling them to achieve the desired harvest of antlerless deer. This voluntary program has been available to help four specific groups of deer managers:

1. Landowners enrolled in the Forest Stewardship program.
2. Farmers with documented deer damage to a commercial crop.
3. Licensed deer farmers authorized to hunt deer by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.
4. Landowners and clubs in the Tri-Parish (Point

Coupee, West Baton Rouge and Iberville) antler restriction zone.

Proposed LADT rule changes for 2004 will expand the program to allow a fifth and potentially much larger group of deer managers to participate in this program. Any landowner with 40 or more acres can now enroll in LADT program. Proposed LADT rule changes include:

- **LADT Season Bag Limit** – Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in LADT do not count in the season limit of a hunter. **The daily bag limit will still be one antlerless deer and one antlered buck on DMAP lands.**
- **Eligibility** – Landowners or lessees with 40 or more contiguous acres of forested or marshlands are eligible for LADT.
- **Boundaries** – Boundaries of lands enrolled in the LADT program shall be clearly marked and posted with LADT or DMAP signs.

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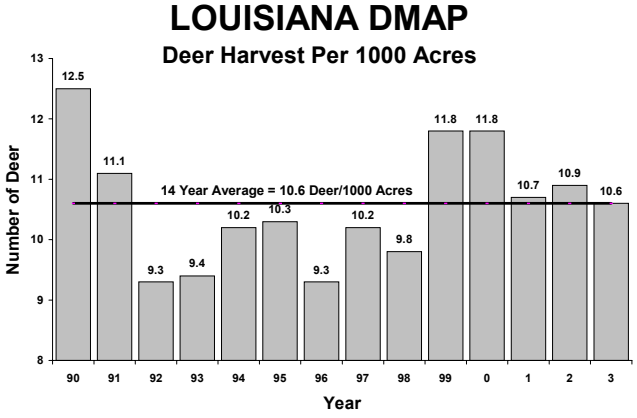
DMAP Harvest Summary 2003-2004

By: Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

Despite mixed reviews from hunters, last season's reported deer harvest on DMAP lands was at the 14-year average. The total kill of 28,184 animals (1-deer/94 acres) represents a harvest of 10.6 deer per 1000 acres of DMAP property.

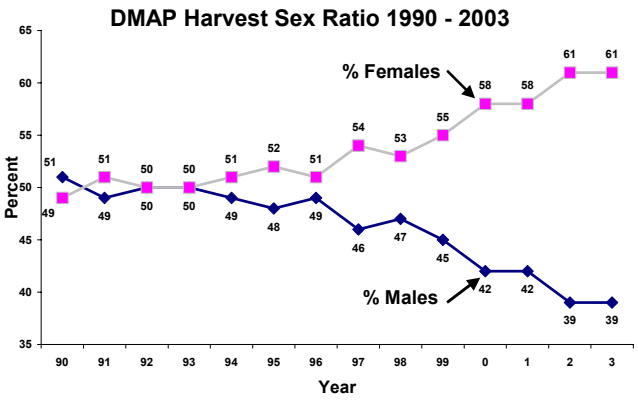


Hunters typically reported seeing fewer deer. Several conditions may have contributed to reduced daylight deer movement:

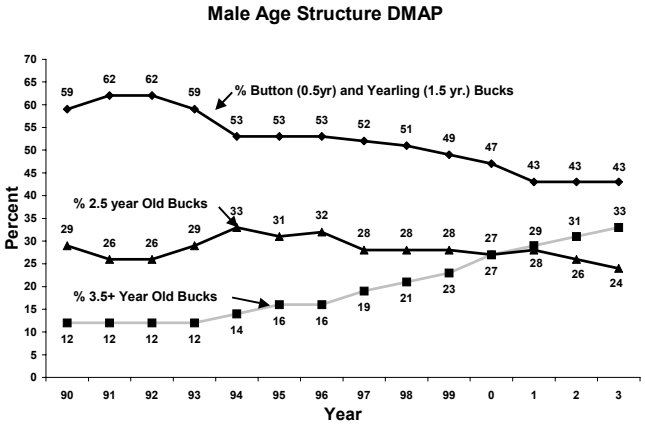
- Drought depressed fawn crops in 2001 & 2002 may have caused some local deer herds to cycle down.
- Above average 2003 summer rainfall reduced stress on lactating females (better condition going into the winter).
- A good red-oak acorn crop and a late frost produced an abundance of natural foods (preferred by deer over corn and food plots).
- Warm rutting season weather reduced the daytime movement of adult bucks.
- Baby-boomers now comprise the bulk of Louisiana deer hunters. These older hunters typically are "just not as mad at them anymore".

A combination of these factors made hunting particularly tough for box-stand hunters who concentrated their efforts on food plots and corn piles. Under these conditions, the number and composition (sex ratios) of deer observed in food plots during daylight hours bears little resemblance to the actual deer herd. Remote cameras repeatedly confirmed this on a large number of clubs.

A gradual increase in the willingness of hunters to harvest females has occurred over the last 22 years. DMAP hunters have harvested 61% females during the past two seasons. Harvesting a preponderance of females is a basic component of successful quality buck management. Adequate female harvest provides more food for the remaining animals as well as reduces social stress. Beneficiaries are hard working (physiologically) does, their offspring and young bucks passed up during the hunting season.



DMAP cooperators striving for improved buck quality continue to make steady progress. A given in deer management is that antler size is directly related to body size – larger bucks grow larger antlers. Bucks continue body growth through 4.5 to 5.5 years of age depending on habitat type and quality. The proportion of bucks 3.5 years and older harvested by DMAP cooperators continue to increase. This is the age group of most quality deer.



At the same time, the young buck component (0.5 and 1.5 year old) steadily declined while the 2.5-year-old bucks seemed to peak in the mid-90's and then trended down. This suggests that DMAP cooperators are not only passing on young bucks but now are voluntarily passing on an increasing number of 2.5-year-old bucks.

The 2004-05 hunting season is shaping up to have many of the same elements as last year, particularly if warm weather prevails and acorns are abundant. They say those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. If you had poor luck seeing deer last year, you may consider abandoning your favorite box stand and doing it the "old-fashion way". Consecutive wet growing seasons should have produced abundant fawns and excellent antler growth. Good hunting!!!

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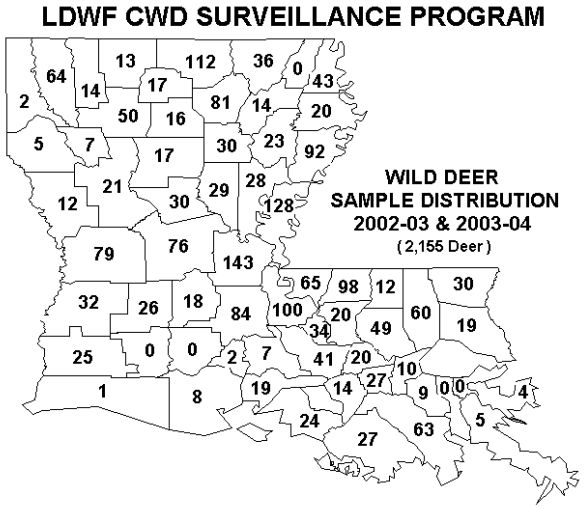
Deer Research/Biology

Chronic Wasting Disease Update

By: Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

During the 2003-2004 hunting season, the Department collected brain and lymph node tissue from 1,038 wild white-tailed deer. DMAP cooperators voluntarily provided a significant number of these samples. The Southeast Wildlife Disease Laboratory conducted tests at the University of Georgia. **CWD was not detected in any of the samples processed for LDWF.**



CWD is a fatal and incurable brain disease of white-tailed deer that occurs at very low prevalence rates. Sick animals are targeted for testing because experience has proven that CWD is found at a much higher rate when these "clinical suspects" are the primary targets for testing. LDWF places a high priority on testing clinical suspects. If you see or kill a sick deer, please

contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries office as soon as possible. Symptoms to be concerned about:

- Skinny deer with unusually poor body condition.
- Deer with unusual behavior (wild deer acting tame) or displaying neurological symptoms.
- Lethargic deer exhibiting excessive drinking, urination and/or drooling behavior.
- Deer with general weakness including drooping head and ears.

If you would like test 3-5 adult animals from your land this season, please call your local biologists.

For more information about CWD check the following sources:

1. www.cwd-info.org
2. www.aphis.usda.gov
3. www.wlf.state.la.us

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Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (Univ. of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine) CWD Briefs

SCWDS publishes a quarterly newsletter with the latest on wildlife diseases from across the globe. In July 2004 Newsletter, recent CWD research results were summarized. Excerpts are taken directly from the newsletter.

Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases

- In Chronic Wasting Disease and Potential Transmission to Humans, the authors report on epidemiological studies of cases of fatal human neurological disease to identify any links to exposure to CWD. …the authors concluded "that the risk, if any, of transmission of CWD to humans is low." However, they… recommended that hunters minimize their risk for exposure to the CWD agent by following the recommendations of public health authorities and wildlife agencies.

- In Environmental Sources of Prion Transmission in Mule Deer, investigators reported on a study to determine if CWD can be transmitted to susceptible animals indirectly from environments contaminated by excreta or decomposed carcasses. … "Although live deer and elk represent the most plausible mechanisms for geographic spread of CWD, our data show that environmental sources could contribute to maintaining or prolonging local epidemics, even when all infected animals are eliminated."

Nature

- In Horizontal Prion Transmission in Mule Deer, it was reported "…horizontal transmission is remarkably efficient, producing a high incidence of disease (87%) in a cohort of mule deer in which maternal transmission was improbable, indicating that horizontal transmission is likely to be more important [than maternal transmission] in sustaining CWD epidemics." Furthermore, the authors stated, "…direct and indirect transmission of CWD can probably occur, and concentrating deer in captivity or by feeding them artificially may facilitate transmission."

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Antlerless Adult Bucks

By: Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

A few antlered does are harvested in Louisiana each season. Hunters are familiar with this rare phenomenon since antlered doe photos appear with some regularity in sporting magazines. The opposite condition, antlerless adult bucks (2.5 years or older), is not often reported. For the past several years, however, DMAP harvest records show an increasing incidence of antlerless adult bucks in several locations across the state.

Is this adult deer a buck or doe?

Photo courtesy of Mr. Ben Allgood, A.G. Wildlife Management Club, DMAP Cooperator, Avoyelles Parish

Why did antlerless 200+ pound bucks start being reported on DMAP lands?

During the 1990's, adult antlerless bucks were reported from localized deer herds in Catahoula and Tensas Parishes in east central Louisiana and within a 20-mile radius of Raccourci Island in West Feliciana, Point Coupee, Avoyelles, and St. Landry Parishes. Populations in these two areas of the state have three important things in common:

1. They occupy some of the most productive habitat in the state.
2. They have been chronically overpopulated (in some cases since the 1960's) .
3. Antlerless deer harvest has only recently become a common practice.

Historically, "bucks-only" was the "law of the land" in these two regions of the state. Antlerless deer received absolute protection while antlered bucks were shot on sight. This harvest strategy resulted in extreme overpopulation, severely distorted sex ratios, and very few, if any, mature bucks. Clubs and landowners with chronically overpopulated deer herds have, in recent years, joined DMAP in an effort to improve herd (antler) quality. As these cooperators began to harvest females in significant numbers for the first time, a few of their "big old barren does" turned out to be adult antlerless bucks.

What causes the rare condition?

Several factors could be contributing to the existence of these abnormal bucks: genetics, a physiological problem caused by chronic overpopulation, or a combination of these two.

Genetics is a complex and intangible factor that deer researchers are just beginning to unravel. Genetic influence could cause this lack of antler development. Based on information from the latest deer magazine or video, today's hunters will be quick to implicate genetics and advocate a buck culling program to correct the problem. "Inferior" genetics, however, is unlikely to be the root of the problem because the Upper Mississippi Delta bottomlands, where this condition is being reported, has the highest concentration of the state's recorded Boone and Crockett bucks. (see map page 10).

Antlers on deer came about through evolutionary processes and their development depends on nutritional status, age, and deer herd density (management history). Studies have shown that **malnutrition and social stress caused by chronic overcrowding play an important role in antler development and growth.**

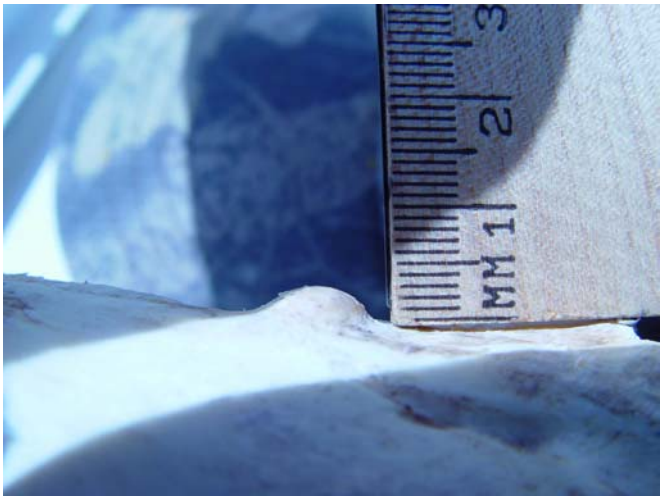
Researchers in Michigan examined the impact of high density populations. They measure deer herd characteristics and behavior under different densities of deer in a 1-sq. mi. deer pen. Low fawning rates, poor fawn survival, and poor antler development were observed when deer densities surpassed 1 deer / 7 acres. **Crowding stress** was believed to be the factor causing the problems because they occurred even with an unlimited supply of highly nutritious food (natural and supplemental) available year-round. When deer densities were reduced, herd condition (fawning rates, fawn survival, body weight, antler development, and timing of rut) returned to normal.

Antlerless males in other species of deer have also been observed and associated with high deer densities. They are called retarded yearlings (knoblers) in roe deer and hummels (naturally polled stags) in mule deer and red deer. Hummels also appear in heavily stressed island populations of caribou. Hummel red deer stags produce male offspring with normal antlers suggesting that this condition is **not** a genetic trait. In 2003 Department biologists submitted the testes from a West Feliciana antlerless 2½-year-old buck to Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. Their findings were that the testes were normal sized and contained fertile sperm.

Antlers are a secondary sexual characteristic tied directly to hormonal activity. Pedicles are the perennial structures (bases) from which antlers grow. Testicular testosterone activates pedicle development in buck fawns at puberty (starting at about 4 months of age). Pedicle establishment is a once-in-a-lifetime event that must be activated (on time) during this sensitive developmental phase. When this hormonal stimulation fails, the skull remains bald or only pedicle stumps may appear. Pedicles in red deer and caribou have failed to develop in undernourished animals, due possibly to malnutrition's effect on the development of testes.

Overpopulated deer herds typically have a delayed and prolonged rut brought about by poor nutrition and an unbalanced sex ratio. Fawns are born over an extended period with some arriving late in the growing season (September and October). If they survive, these later-born infants suffer impeded physical development that leads to undersized bodies and short-spiked 1½-year-old bucks. In extreme cases, these out-of-sync animals resemble button bucks thus becoming antlerless 1½-year-old bucks. In rare instances, they may become antlerless adult bucks due to the absence or delayed development of pedicles. Breeding studies in this portion of Area 6 indicate a late rut, January and February. Problems with overpopulation can make breeding occur even later.

Don Pitre killed this 220 lbs. antlerless buck on Michaud Swamp in St. Landry Parish. It was killed in 1990 on the 1st "club doe day" after several years of no doe harvest.



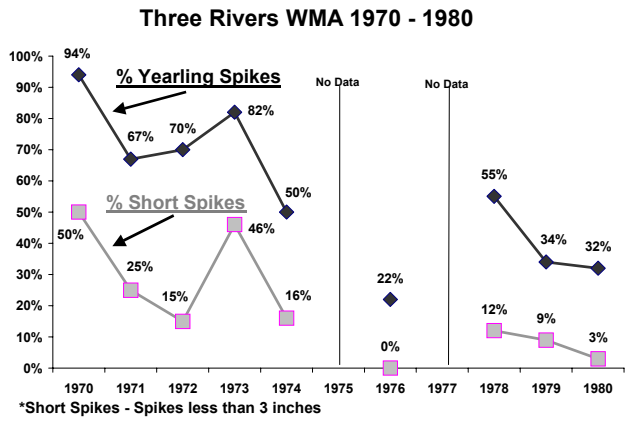
One of two antlerless adult bucks harvested during the last 3 years on Wade Soroka DMAP Unit, West Feliciana. This 187 pound buck was 3.5 years old.

What can be done to correct this strange condition?

DMAP cooperators reporting this condition view it as a serious problem, particularly when they see large antlerless bucks working scrapes and chasing does. There are several theories as to the function of antlers in deer. Little doubt exists that one of the

primary functions is to establish dominance through displaying and fighting to secure mating rights. Adults without antlers are at a distinct disadvantage when competing with normal bucks. However, even if these bucks do breed, the concern about inferior deer being produced is likely unfounded because studies in other deer species show their offspring are normal under good herd and habitat conditions.

Additionally, the Department has experience with inheriting poor quality deer herds living on high quality habitat. For example, the Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area (TRWMA) is located only 10 miles from one of the sites reporting antlerless bucks. The TRWMA's deer herd was typical for most Concordia Parish club-land in 1970 due to a long history of bucks-only hunting. Harvest records from the first public hunt demonstrate the impact of overpopulation and poor nutrition. Over 90% of the 1½-year-old bucks had spike antlers and half of these were short spikes (3 inches or less). Average 1½-year-old buck weight was 122 lbs.



Over the next 11 years significant improvements were made in the quality of the deer herd. In 1980, my last year to work on TRWMA, we weighed two of the largest bodied bucks (290 lbs. and 275 lbs.) that I have seen in my 26 years with the Department. The incidence of spikes in 1½-year-old bucks declined by 66% and short spikes drop by almost 95% (see graph). The average body weight of 1½-year-old bucks increased to 140 pounds.

A 290 lbs., 21-inch, 11-point checked at Three Rivers WMA (1980).

What miracle management practices contributed to this big turn around? Genetics were never considered and no food plots were planted. Department biologists applied a basic management formula: Sustained antlerless deer harvest + habitat management (timber management practices) = high quality deer herd. ***This simple formula is the foundation for quality deer management. All other management practices (selective harvest, food plots, etc.) must build on this sound foundation for a property's potential to be achieved.***

Department biologists will continue to monitor the antler characteristics on these DMAP units as they progress with implementation of their deer management programs. The TRWMA example suggests that the problem with antlerless bucks will be solved within several generations of deer with sound deer management.

References

1. *Brown, Robert D. 1983. Antler Development in Cervidae, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute College of Agriculture, Texas A&I University, Kingsville Texas.*
2. *Gross, Richard J. 1983, Deer Antlers, Regeneration, Function, and Evolution Academic Press New York.*
3. *Bubenik, George A & A. B. Bubenik 1990 Horns, Pronghorns and Antlers, Evolution, Morphology, Physiology, and Social Significance, Springer-Verlag.*
4. *Ozoga, J. J. and L. J. Verme. 1982. Physical and reproductive characteristics of a supplementally-fed white-tailed deer herd.. Journal of Wildlife Management 46:281-301.*

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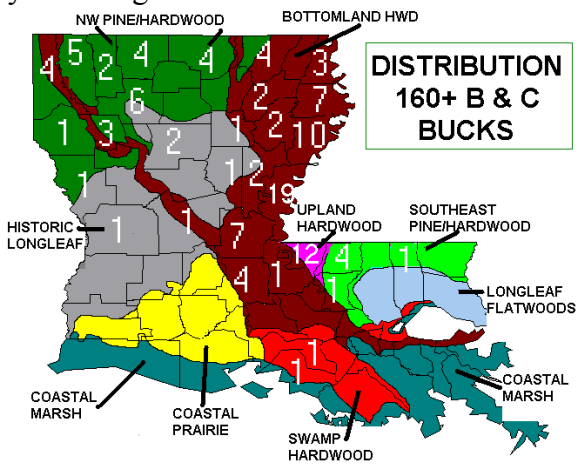
Habitat

BIG BUCKS IN THE SOUTHEAST PINEY WOODS

By: N. J. Stafford, *Region 7 Biologist*

When one thinks of places where trophy class bucks are taken in Louisiana, those parishes in the North Mississippi River Delta or the loess bluff regions (see map) come to mind. These sites have highly fertile soils, croplands, and plenty of mast-producing trees. Two hundred pound bucks at 2½ years of age are not uncommon.



But what about those deer hunters in the piney woods of southeast Louisiana where acorns are scarce. Much of the Florida Parish area ("toe of the LA boot") fits this scenario. With hard work and exceptional cooperation among neighboring clubs, quality bucks and an occasional trophy buck can be produced. For example, Washington Parish DMAP clubs have refused to accept poor quality bucks as their lot in life. This parish, half of which is owned by a major timber company, has managed to produce an increasing number of adult (quality) bucks.

Washington Parish is heavily forested predominantly with pine, but mixed pine-hardwood and streambottom hardwood forests occur throughout the parish. Major tributaries include the Pearl River, Bogue Chitto River, and the Tchefuncte River. The Pushepatapa Creek is a unique stream where mountain laurel grows. Historically, this parish had 1,000 or so small farms on the landscape. Although the number of active farms has dwindled, many pastures are still present. This combination of features creates pockets of good habitat in an area noted for moderate to low soil fertility.

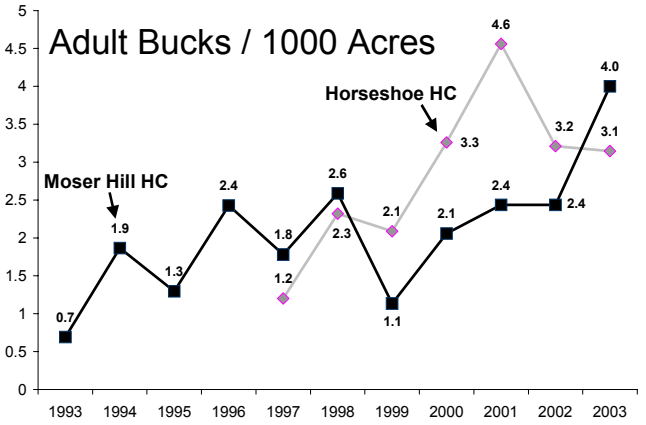
During the 2002-03 season, Tom Duffy of 3G Ag Services Hunting Club, harvested a superb 11-point buck that scored 171 Boone & Crockett. Many said that this was a fluke and would never happen again, but in the 2003-04 season neighboring Outback hunting club guest Nick Burbig killed a 180 B&C class 14-point featured in the Louisiana Sportsman Magazine (see photo). Other parish clubs occasionally take 140 B&C deer.

How could this be happening on these short-rotation pine dominant forests? As a biologist, I will be the first to admit that this area is the exception rather than the rule. However, most of the DMAP clubs in the area have decided that, despite the shortage of hardwoods and absence of prescribed burning, they would do whatever was necessary to improve the number of quality bucks.

In combination with extensive food plot systems and doe harvest, most of the Parish DMAP clubs, representing about 26,000 acres, **voluntarily**

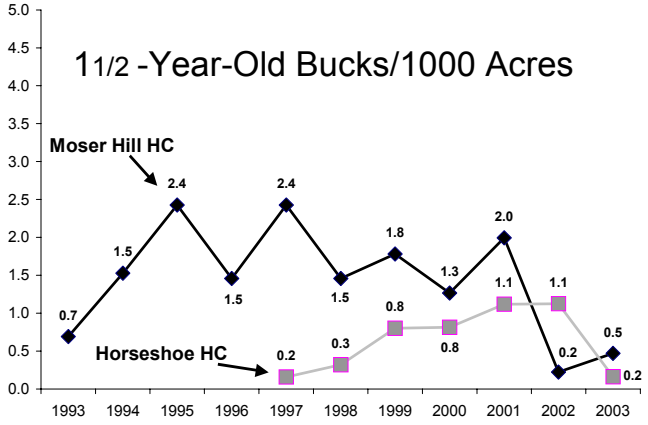
instituted restrictions to protect 1½-year-old bucks. Combined, these DMAP clubs harvested 196 deer (104 does and 92 bucks) during the 2003-04 season. Amazingly, 77% of the bucks harvested were adults (2½ years or older). Two of the larger parish clubs, Mosher Hill (4,250 ac.) and Horseshoe (12,400 ac.) have very different hunting styles but each has been successful at increasing the age of bucks in the harvest.

Mosher Hill has been in DMAP for over a decade. In 1992, youngsters, 1½-years-old or less, dominated (85%) their harvest and only 5 adult bucks (0.9 per 1,000 acres) were harvested. By 2002-03, the club's buck harvest had "done a 180". Adult bucks comprised 84% and 74% in 2003-04 .



An **aggressive** doe harvest has resulted in high lactation rates (fawn production) in adult does, which is the secret to top-notched deer management programs. The restricted 1½-year-old buck harvest has resulted in more adults bucks available to harvest. This in turn resulted in more "mountable" bucks than ever being taken from Mosher Hill and their members are quite pleased with their success. During the past 3 seasons, the average for 3 ½-year and older bucks was about 7 points with 14-inch spreads.

Horseshoe, now another happy hunting club, was somewhat reluctant to join the DMAP program due to perceived difficulties in the selective harvest of deer while dog hunting. However, after joining in 1997, they soon proved to be just as capable in selective harvest as still-hunting clubs.



Their first season in DMAP, they reduced their 1½-year-old buck take and harvested 17 bucks and 51 does. The very next season their adult buck harvest nearly doubled. By the 5th year the adult buck harvest had quadrupled. The next year, in an attempt to further improve buck quality, restrictions that also reduced some of the adult buck harvest were implemented. During the 2003-04 season, 39 bucks were harvested (95% of which were adults (2.5 years or older). During the past 3 seasons, the average for 3 ½-year and older bucks was about 7 points with 12-inch spreads.

Most of the other clubs within Washington Parish **voluntarily employ** some type of restricted buck harvest. These restrictions vary depending on the objectives of each individual club, but combined over a large area have demonstrated that the occurrence of adult bucks can be significantly increased **even** in piney woods.

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People

HUNTERS for the HUNGRY

The nonprofit organization Hunters for the Hungry is asking interested hunters to donate freshly harvested game to help nourish needy families in their community. The donation of a whole deer will automatically entitle the donor to be entered in a raffle to win a **Bad Boy Buggy** all electric 4wd vehicle. The following businesses will process a freshly harvested deer (field dressed) at no cost to the donor:

GREATER BATON ROUGE AREA

Contact: Vic Blanchard - vjbl3591@aol.com

- Feliciana Seafood & Deli (225-635-4279
- Frank Mougeot's Slaughter House (225-638-8228)
- Kelly's Food Mart (225-687-4258)
- Roucher's (225-687-4258)
- Willie Rodrigue (337-623-5333)

LAFAYETTE

Contact: Bob Giles – bgiles@gilescars.com

SHREVEPORT

Contact: Brannon Alexander – brannon75@aol.com

- Austin's Country Store (318-377-6273)
- Bellevue Meat Processing (318-949-3794)
- The Skinning Shed (Coushatta)

ALEXANDRIA

Contact: Ellis Saybe – davsay1979@aol.com

MONROE

Contact: Jeanette Ellington – wmdirector@hotmail.com

- Cut a Buck (318-766-4806)
- The Deer Shop (318-322-5611)
- Gray's Slaughter House (318-248-2271)
- Wilderness Acres (318-982-7450)
- Carl Williamson (318-574-2119
- Cobb Processing (318-467-2175 or 2243)
- Richard Smith (318-376-3331)

NEW ORLEANS

Contact: Pierre Adams - pierreadams@aol.com

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Whitetails Unlimited and Cajun Boss Hens Make Contributions to LDWF Youth Hunt

By: John Hanks, Region 2 DMAP Biologist

The Northeast Louisiana chapter of Whitetails Unlimited made a $1,500 contribution toward the construction of eight deer stands to be used by youth deer hunters on the Floy McElroy Wildlife Management Area. Additional support came from the National Wild Turkey Federation Cajun Boss Hens Chapter ($1,000) and metal roofing was donated by Metal Mart in Monroe.

Youth hunters are selected by lottery and will be hunting three weekends (October, 23 &24, Nov. 6&7 and Nov. 13&14. Due to last year's success (eight deer killed by 16 hunters), one weekend was added for 2004. Reforestation of 284 acres of pastureland has created excellent deer habitat and success is expected to be high again this year.

Northeast LA Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited president Shawn Williams (l) and LDWF DMAP biologist John Hanks inspect one of the youth hunt deer stands.

Mrs. Floy Ward McElroy donated this unique WMA to the Department in 1994. The gift of her life's work, a 681 cattle farm, to the citizens of Louisiana was made with one simple request: "I want the public to enjoy my land as much as I have enjoyed it". Located two miles north of Rayville, Floy McElroy WMA is currently being developed as an outdoors educational facility. At this time, dove and deer hunting are restricted to youth-only hunts.

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Donald Locascio, Jr.'s original artwork was presented to him framed and matted in appreciation for his unselfish contributions of his time and talent to create the eye-catching wildlife settings for every DMAP newsletter. Working solely with a pencil, he captures the subtleties of the deer world for everyone's enjoyment.

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The DMAP Newsletter is printed twice a year to assist DMAP Cooperators with the intensive management of deer and habitat resources and to enhance the recreational enjoyment derived from these resources. It also updates cooperators with information on the administration of the program. **DMAP contact people who receive the newsletter directly are encouraged to pass it to as many of their members as possible.** Please forward any questions or comments about DMAP or the DMAP Newsletter to:

Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator
David Moreland, Wildlife Division Administrator
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
Savage_jl@wlf.louisiana.gov or (225)765-0823
Moreland_dw@wlf.louisiana.gov or (225)765-2344

Compiled and edited by:
Mike Olinde, Program Manager

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898